

## “Disqualifications for Christians,” Part 5 - 1 Corinthians 10:9-11 – August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

- Today's teaching will be part five of a series titled, “Disqualifications for Christians.”
- Here in chapter ten, the Apostle Paul uses the Israelites as an example of being disqualified from entering the Promised Land.
- As such, it serves as a warning to us who can also be disqualified and lose our rewards in heaven and our blessings on earth.

### 1. Relying on past blessings (Verses 1-4)

- Paul says the Corinthians were in danger of taking God's past blessings for granted in that it was excusing their sinful carnality.

### 2. Gratifying the lusts of the flesh (Verses 5-6)

- Paul refers to the Israelites growing tired of Manna and desiring meat to eat instead, which led to their death in the wilderness.

### 3. Indulging in idolatrous revelry (Verse 7)

- v7 Paul refers to the Israelites worshipping the golden calf after growing tired of waiting for Moses to come back from Mt. Sinai.

### 4. Committing sexual immorality (Verses 8)

- v8 Paul refers to the Israelites sexual sin with the Moabites, which resulted in twenty-three thousand of them dying in one day.

### 5. Complaining and grumbling (Verses 9-11)

- v9 The Apostle Paul says that we shouldn't test Christ, as some of the Israelites did, and as a result, they were killed by snakes.
- v10 He goes on to say we shouldn't grumble, as some of them did, which resulted in them being killed by the destroying angel.
- v11 He then says these happened as examples and written warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.

- Paul is referring to Numbers 21, where we find an interesting account of what happened to the Israelites when they complained.

**Numbers 21:4-9** Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.” So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

- It's important to note at this point in the wilderness, many of them had already died, just as Aaron, Moses' older brother had.
- The reason I point this out is because the children of Israel are now comprised in part of the next generation as young adults.
- The point being is, they learned from their forefathers that whenever the going gets rough, the way you handle it is to complain.
- I would suggest that complaining is contagious and even deadly, not only for our children, but also for others who're close to us.
- This begs the question of why does complaining rise to the level of sins like that of idolatry, carnality, and sexual immorality?
- Simply put, it's because complaining against God, is a sin against God, and as with all sin, it carries with it the death penalty.

**Romans 6:23 (NKJV)** — 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- It's for this very reason that the Lord tells Moses to make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole so that all who look at it shall live.
- Here's why, the pole was in the shape of a cross, picturing the finished work on the cross, when Jesus paid in full for all our sin.
- Actually, the typology is so powerful that Jesus Himself references this account in one of the most quoted verses in the Bible.

**John 3:14-16** (14) Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, (15) that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (16) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- I'm hoping you'll kindly allow me to share with you the fascinating picture the snake on the pole paints of Christ on the cross.

THE SERPENT ON THE POLE	THE CHRIST ON THE CROSS
The serpent got Eve to eat the fruit that hung on a tree and sin	Jesus took upon him the curse of sin and hung on a tree
The serpent paints for us a picture of sin	Jesus died as payment in full for our sin.
The serpent is made of bronze which is a type of judgment	Jesus took the judgment instead of us.
The bronze snake is lifted up on the pole	Jesus was judged for our sin, and lifted up on the cross.
The serpent was horizontal on a vertical pole	Jesus became a man-horizontal restoring us to God-vertical
Seemed simply foolish to look at the pole	Jesus dying on the cross is foolishness to some
This was the only way to be healed	Jesus is the only way to get to heaven
It took faith in that which they hoped for but was yet unseen	We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ
All the Israelites had to do was look upon the pole to be saved	All we have to do is look to Jesus and be saved

**Isaiah 45:22** Look to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

- As a side note the symbol for modern day medicine comes from this passage, which describes healing with a snake on a pole.